



Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) Methodology

2021-22



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LEAMS Methodology

The methodology for the LEAMS surveys reflects the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007, which relates to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Each survey covers a 6% sample of streets, selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by each local authority. LEAMS assesses the quality of the local environment through a visual survey of a 50m length of one side of a street (known as a transect) which includes the pavement and some gutter, by recording the below information.

1. Overall Cleanliness Grade

This is based on how much litter and dog fouling is present.

A Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No litter or refuse	B+ Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No more than 3 small items of litter	B Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from some small items	C Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations	D Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations
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2. Zones

We categorise each street according to zones, as follows:

- a) Land Use
 - Zone 1: Town centres, shopping centres, major transport centres.
 - Zone 2: High density residential areas, busy recreational areas.
 - Zone 3: Low density residential areas, industrial estates.
- b) Intensity of Use
 - High intensity of use: busy public areas.
 - Medium intensity of use: primarily housing areas.
 - Low intensity of use: lightly trafficked areas (including rural roads).

3. Litter

We record whether the below are present or absent.

Types	Sources
Smoking	Pedestrian
Drinks	Business
Confectionery	Domestic
Fast food	Construction
	Animal Faeces
	Other
	Glass

We also collect data on foam polystyrene and drinks receptacles litter and in 2021-22 collected information on single use items, for each category how many items present are counted. The categories are as follows:

Foam Polystyrene	Drinks Receptacles	Single Use Items
Fast Food	Plastic Bottles	Wet Wipes
Other	Cans (aluminium)	Fast Food drinks Lids
	Glass Bottles	Fast Food Packaging
	Cartons	Drink Stirrers
	Fast Food Cups	Drinks Straws
	Foil Pouches	Single Use Cutlery
		Cotton Buds
		Bags
		Balloons

4. Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs)

Dog fouling, vandalism and weeds are graded as follows:

A Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade
• Not present	• Small presence	• Significant presence	• Severe presence

Dog fouling is the only issue which affects the overall cleanliness grade. Any dog fouling means the street cannot score higher than a B grade. A significant presence leads to a C grade, while a severe presence leads to a D grade.

Detritus is any natural material and broken down organic matter. It is graded as follows:

A Grade	B+ Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade
• No detritus	• No more than 3 small items of detritus	• Predominantly free of detritus except for some light scattering	• Widespread distribution of detritus with minor accumulations	• Heavily affected by detritus with significant accumulations

Graffiti is graded as follows:

A Grade	B+ Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade
• No graffiti	• No more than 1 very minor piece of graffiti - people passing wouldn't notice it	• Some minor graffiti - many people passing wouldn't notice it	• Graffiti is clearly visible from at least one end of the transect	• Graffiti is clearly visible and obtrusive - it is extensive over a large part of the transect and visible from any point on the transect

5.

Fly-posting is graded as follows:

A Grade	B+ Grade	B Grade	C Grade	D Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fly-posting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 1 very minor piece of fly-posting - people passing wouldn't notice it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some minor fly-posting - many people passing wouldn't notice it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly-posting is clearly visible from at least one end of the transect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly-posting is clearly visible and obtrusive - it is extensive over a large part of the transect and visible from any point on the transect

Indicators of Cleanliness

The overall cleanliness grade is used to calculate:

a) The Cleanliness Indicator

The Cleanliness Indicator is calculated from the street cleanliness grades (A-D) and ranges from 0 to 100. Each grade carries a weighting.

$$\text{Cleanliness Indicator} = \frac{\text{Actual Score}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times 100$$

Example of calculating the Cleanliness Indicator using a sample of 30 streets:

	Number of Streets Awarded that Grade	Weighting	Score
A Grade	2	3	6
B+ Grade	3	2.5	7.5
B Grade	22	2	44
C Grade	2	1	2
D Grade	1	0	0
Totals	30		59.5

Maximum Score: 30 (total number of streets) x 3 (grade A weighting) = 90

$$\text{Cleanliness Indicator} = \frac{59.5}{90} \times 100 = 66.1$$

If all streets are awarded a B grade (an acceptable level of cleanliness) the Cleanliness Indicator is 66.7.

b) The Percentage Streets Awarded B Grade and Above

Keep Wales Tidy's independent data for each local authority on the percentage of streets awarded B grade and above is combined with the figures from surveys undertaken by local authorities to calculate the Public Accountability Measure for Clean Streets.



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